

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1 – 5 and 7 remain in the application. Claim 1 has been amended. Claim 6 has been canceled.

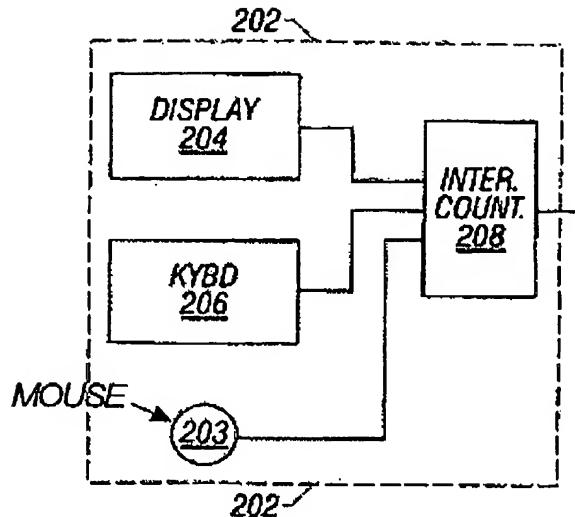
The relative term "large" has been removed from claim 1 and claim 6 has been canceled altogether. The rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, on page 2 of the detailed action is now moot.

The "memory cards" holding large amounts of data are now recited as "flash memory cards." Support for the change is found in the specification on page 7, for example. The terms "flash card" or "flash memory card" are synonymous with "multimedia card" or "multimedia memory card."

The specification and the claims meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs. Should the Examiner find any further objectionable items, counsel would appreciate a telephone call during which the matter may be resolved.

We now turn to the art rejection, in which claims 1-6 have been rejected as being anticipated by Kinsella (U.S. Patent No. 6,148,094) under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and claim 7 has been rejected as being obvious over Kinsella under 35 U.S.C. § 103. We respectfully traverse on the basis of the clarified claims.

Kinsella shows a mouse ("pointing device") attached to a computer. The mouse includes a fingerprint sensor. The mouse is illustrated in Fig. 9 -- see the excerpt reproduced here -- and identified "203." The data from the fingerprint sensor are read in via an interface, i.e., "viewing the fingerprint of the user through the transparent material forming button 22B, and at the same time, a scan of the user's fingerprint." Col. 6, lines 22-24. The purpose is to identify and authorize the user.



In the terminology used in claim 1, Kinsella may be said to teach:

- a reading unit for scanning a finger;
- an image processing unit . . . for producing an image of the finger; and
- a data interface connected to said image processing unit.

The reference does not, however, teach that the "data interface" may be configured according to a flash card standard or a multimedia card interface standard, nor that the housing of the device is at least partially shaped as a housing for such a flash memory card.

Kinsella's pointing device (trackball mouse) remains connected to the system and the fingerprint image is compared to an image that is resident in the system. If Kinsella provides for portability, it is not for the sensor device, but for the user's

profile that allows his access to the system. The authorization profile of the user is stored on an authorization profile storage 222. The profile may be carried by the user from system to system:

[One] or more of the authorization profile storage 222 . . . may be implemented as an electronic memory device connected to the system 222, such as a removable PC card memory device. This affords, for example, an authorized user to carry his profile in a removable device and allows gaining access to any system to which the removable device is connected.

Kinsella, col. 9, lines 27-34. That is, the fingerprint sensor remains an integral part of the computer system, and the user may carry his profile from system to system.

The movable memory cards that are mentioned by Kinsella are thus carriers with which the user carries his profile and authorization. The interface between the biometric sensor (i.e., the pointing device) and the computer need not be configured for flash memory card standard and its housing need not be (partly) configured with a flash card housing. In fact, the "housing" of Kinsella is a trackball pointing device or a mouse. The device cannot be at least partly formed as a housing of a flash memory card. Indeed, it would make no sense whatsoever to provide the mouse housing in the shape of a memory card.

In summary, neither Kinsella nor any other reference, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claim 1. Claim 1 is, therefore, patentable over the art and since all of the dependent claims are ultimately dependent on claim 1, they are patentable as well.

05-01-'06 14:03 FROM-LGS PatentUSA
P2001,0173 - 10/657,601
Response to Office action 2/24/2006
Response submitted May 1, 2006

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T-902 P07/07 U-239

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1 – 5 and 7 are solicited.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made. Please charge any fees which might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner Greenberg Steiner LLP, No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,



For Applicants

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May 1, 2006

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